

Barren Co. ATC Becomes First in KY Tech System to Achieve NIMS Accreditation



Barren Co. ATC machine tool technology students display the NIMS banner.

After months of intense hard work and study, the Barren Co. ATC has been recommended to receive the National Institute for Metal Working Skills (NIMS) certification.

All KY Tech machine tool instructors were introduced to the program in June 2003 by way of a technical update summer training session held at the Breckinridge Co. ATC.

NIMS was selected as the standard certification for OCTE machine tool technology programs.

The certification process includes a self study, instructor machining skill demonstration, student testing (three students have already tested and passed), required equipment inventory, curriculum review, advisory committee interviews and a site visit, which was conducted on November 4, 2004.

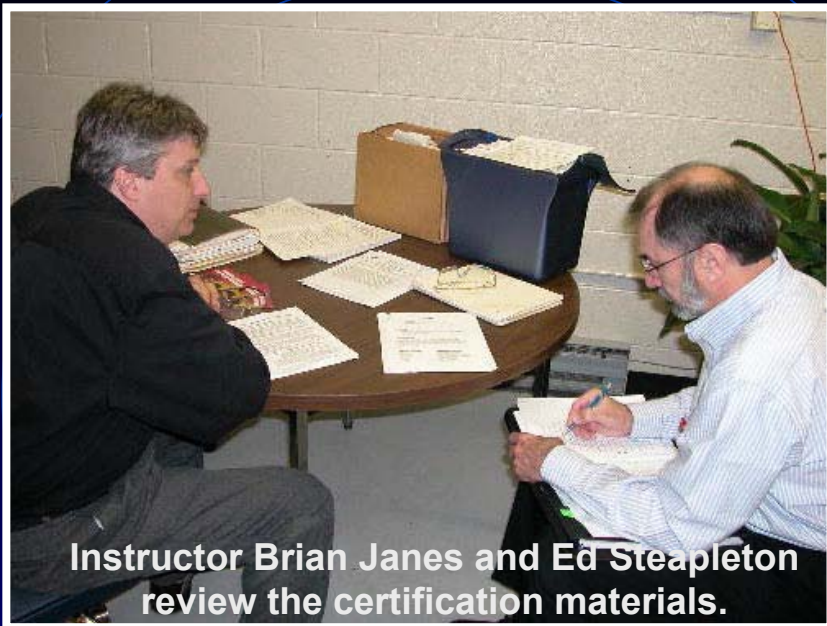
Not only does the Barren Co. ATC hold the distinction of becoming the first school in the state to be recommended for NIMS certification, it is one of only a handful of secondary schools in the nation to meet the standards for certification according to Wes Ellis, industry relations manager for the Alabama Technology Network (ATN). Ellis served as the NIMS team leader and was accompanied by ATN CNC Engineer Ed Steapleton during the ATC's site visit.

"It is our pleasure to recommend this very progressive machine tool technology program to NIMS for its five year program accreditation," said Ellis. "We feel like this is a progressive step for all programs in the state of Kentucky."

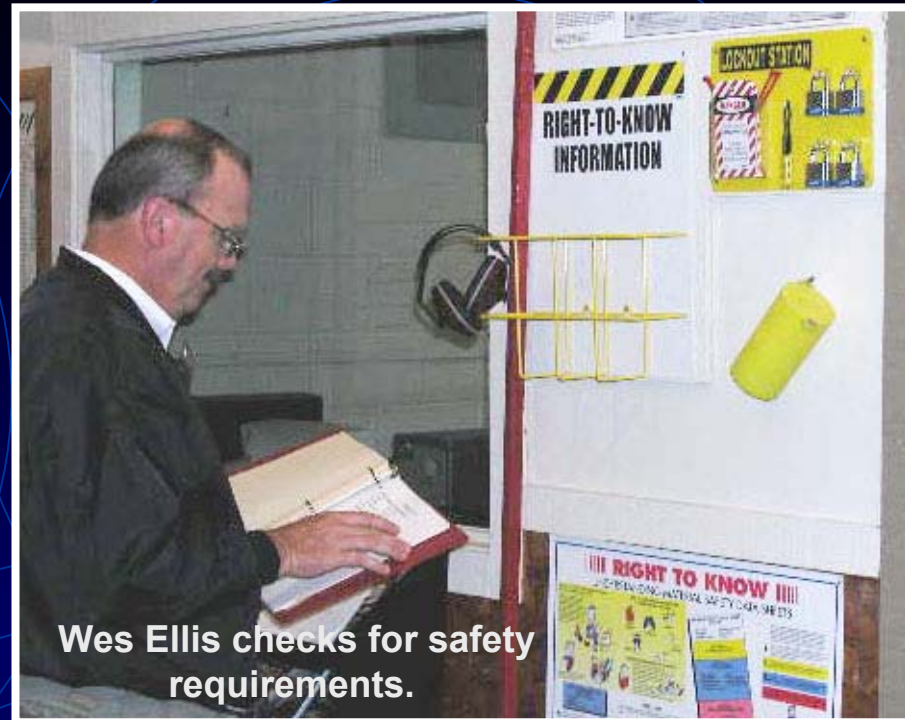
"Our site visit went extremely well and the team provided some valuable recommendations for future improvements to our program," said Barren Co. ATC Machine Tool Technology Instructor Brian Janes. "I am very proud that we are now a NIMS accredited school."

"The recent visit of the NIMS accreditation team was a thorough examination of our machine tool program," said Principal Hal Toms. "Mr. Janes and his students worked very hard preparing for the evaluation. The visiting team members were complimentary of him, the program and the industry support that was evident during their interviews. I am extremely pleased with the outcome of the visit and the effort put forth by Mr. Janes."

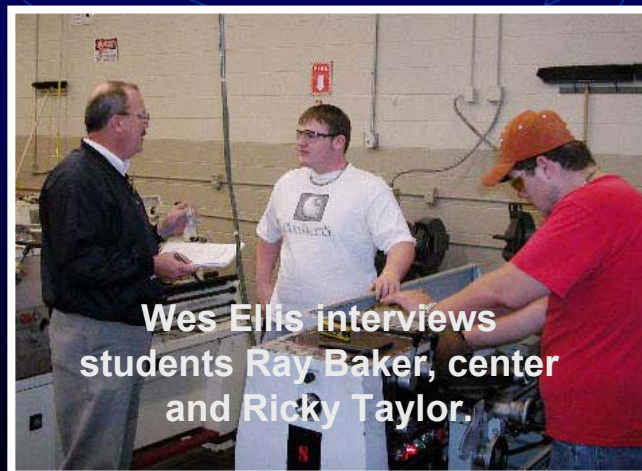




Instructor Brian Janes and Ed Steapleton review the certification materials.



Wes Ellis checks for safety requirements.



Wes Ellis interviews students Ray Baker, center and Ricky Taylor.



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